

looking up and down and even sometimes
forward and backward charles fort
with one foot in tomorrow a hand
in yesterday
went outside.

the only man in the neighborhood

i was going to have a picnic
in kennedy national park
i buckled the seatbelts
and strapped in the basket securely
not wanting to lose it on the way

drive carefully arline shouted
from the laboratory door
back tonight dear i replied

i started the starter threw in the clutch
put the old girl in gear while
glancing in the rearview mirror
and off i went to 1997

i am the only man in the neighborhood
with a chevrolet supersport time machine.

-- Norman H. Russell

Storm Lake, Iowa

A Really Sound Project

The suggestion was a good one,
but the stone was too heavy.
Your red cape trailed in the mud,
caught in my heel.

The old men didn't like it much,
spat and swore like nothing
we had ever seen or heard before,
pointing their guns at us.

A joke or two will calm them,
we'll tell them funny stories,
I said. I screamed at them,
Have you heard this one?